

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

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County Executive Craig Announces Proposed FY 2014 Budget *Lean budget reflects economic realities*

(Bel Air, MD) - - Harford County Executive David R. Craig has announced the proposed FY 2014 Operating and Capital Budget for Harford County. The proposed budget reflects a modest increase of approximately \$6 million or approximately 1.31% over the FY 2013 budget.

"In preparing the FY 2014 budget, we have combined prudent budgeting and finance with strategic planning to help keep Harford County finances healthy as we continue to deal with fiscal problems of the state and federal government," County Executive Craig said. "A number of revenue sources have been adversely affected over the past several years from factors outside the control of my Administration," Craig said.

Notable aspects of the proposed FY 2014 budget are:

- No increase in taxes
- No wage or salary enhancements for county employees, the Harford County Sheriff's Office, or Harford County Public Library.
- Funding for the Board of Education is \$1,952,485 above Maintenance of Effort. Furthermore, an additional \$1.5 million in funding to help cover the costs of teacher pensions.
- Funding for new/replacement schools for Youth's Benefit Elementary, Havre de Grace High School and major systemic projects for Joppatowne High School.
- Funding to support 10 new Correctional Officers for one-half year for the Harford County Sheriff's Office, assigned to the Detention Center.
- Funding of \$9,422,456 for the Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS Association to support the needs of the fire and EMS system.

(more)

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The proposed FY 2014 Operating and Capital budget reflects the Administration's practical and fiscally responsible approach to managing the annual budget. The Administration has worked hard to balance the competing needs of the county with wants. The proposed FY 2014 budget also contrasts the leadership of County Executive David R. Craig with those in Annapolis who have consistently raised taxes which has a detrimental impact on working families, business and industry and the economy.

Commenting on the economy, County Executive Craig said, "In a time where Maryland families have been saddled with over 34 additional taxes and fees from the State, Harford County has sought to lessen those impacts here at home by holding the line on taxes."

"Over the past three years local governments have had to endure repeated efforts by the leadership in Annapolis to pass their fiscal problems down to the counties. Forcing teacher pensions on county governments, cutting highway user funds, and cutting State aid to local government among other initiatives does not solve the state's tax and spend problem it just rearranges the issues," County Executive Craig said.

"Making prudent budgetary decisions, working hard to limit increasing costs of government and more effectively and efficiently managing our projects and priorities, we continue to work hard at those things which helped us obtain and maintain a Aaa bond rating," Craig remarked.

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"Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future"